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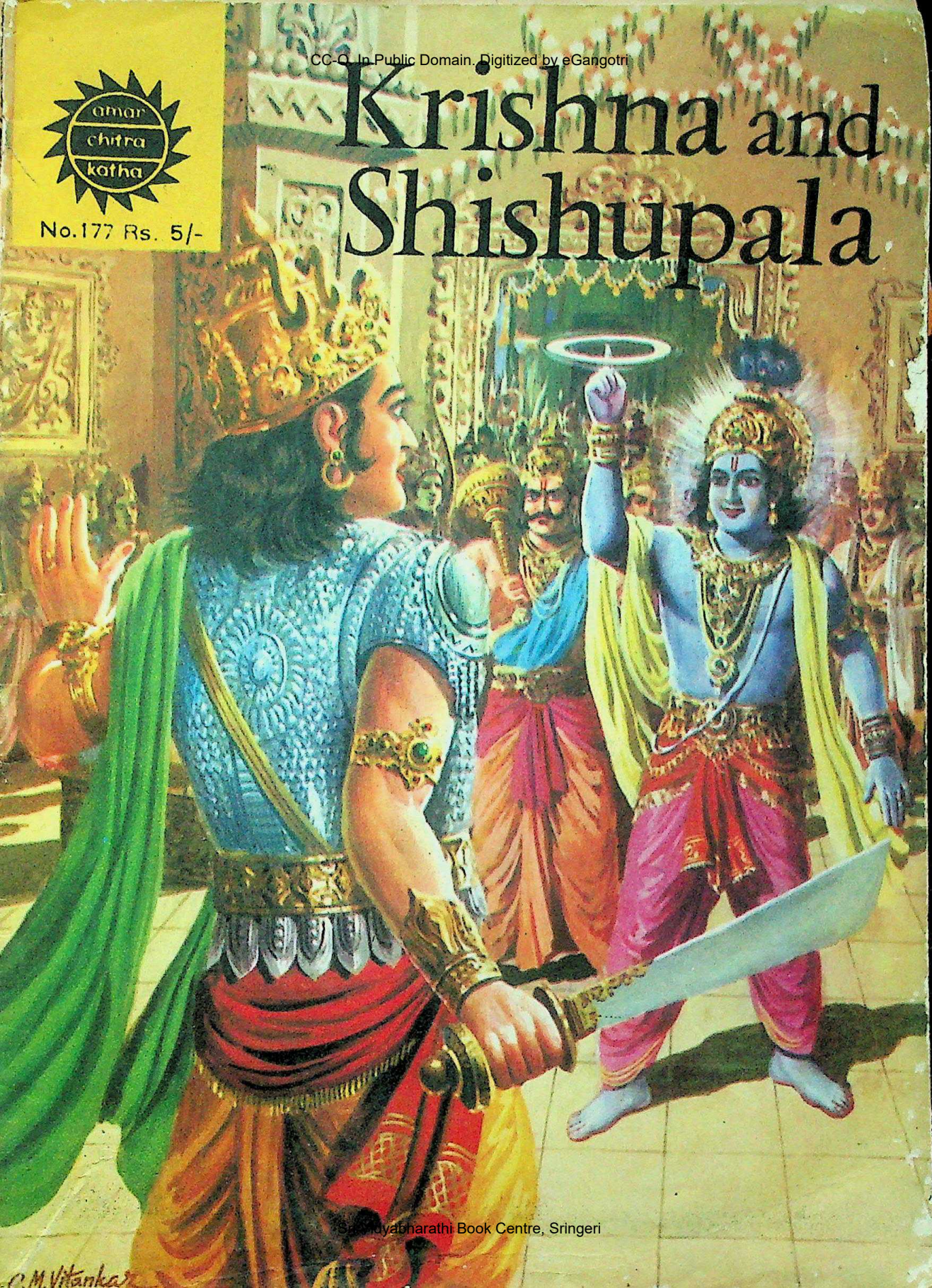

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Jaya and Vijaya, the guards at Vishnu's abode, were vain and rude and were cursed to be born thrice in the world of mortals. The contrite guards were subsequently permitted one concession : they would be killed in each of their separate births by one of the incarnations of Vishnu.

Thus first they were born as Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu, next as Ravana and Kumbhakarna and last as Shishupala and Dantavaktra.

While the first two pairs were leading characters in their times, Shishupala remains a minor character in the Mahabharata and Dantavaktra, almost a nonentity.

Shishupala for all his show of valour remains a man of straw. In fact his only distinction was that he died at the hands of Krishna. He is also remembered as the jilted suitor of Rukmini.

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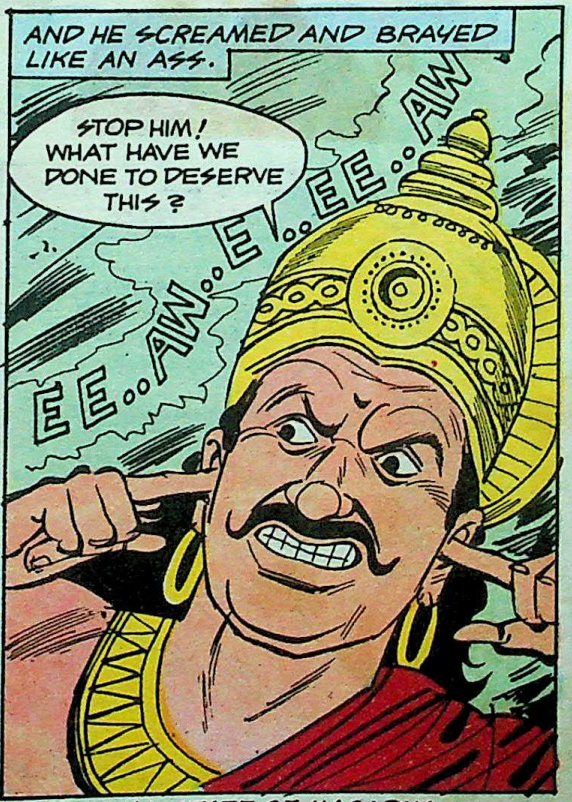

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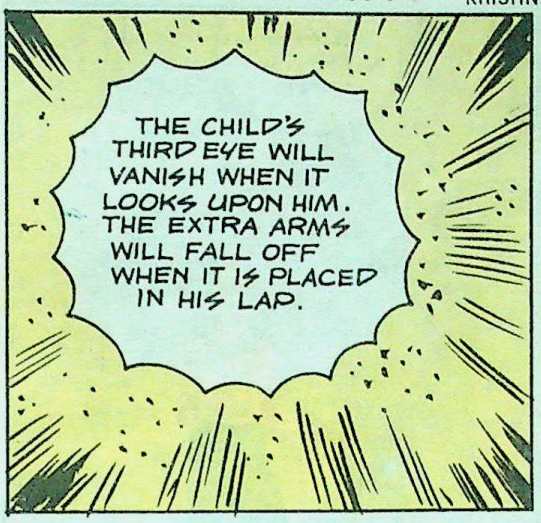

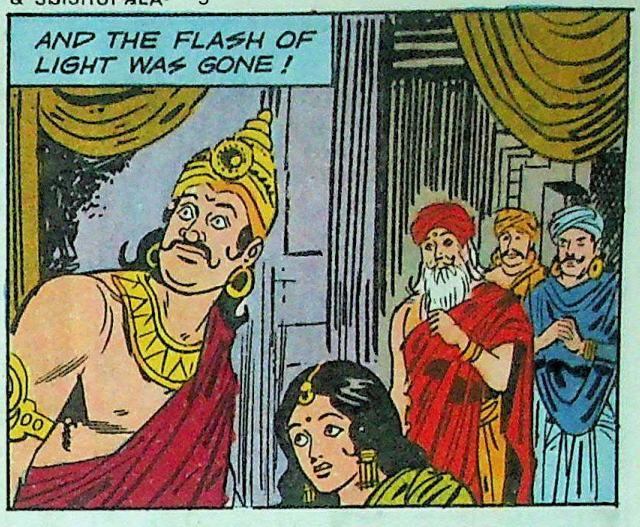

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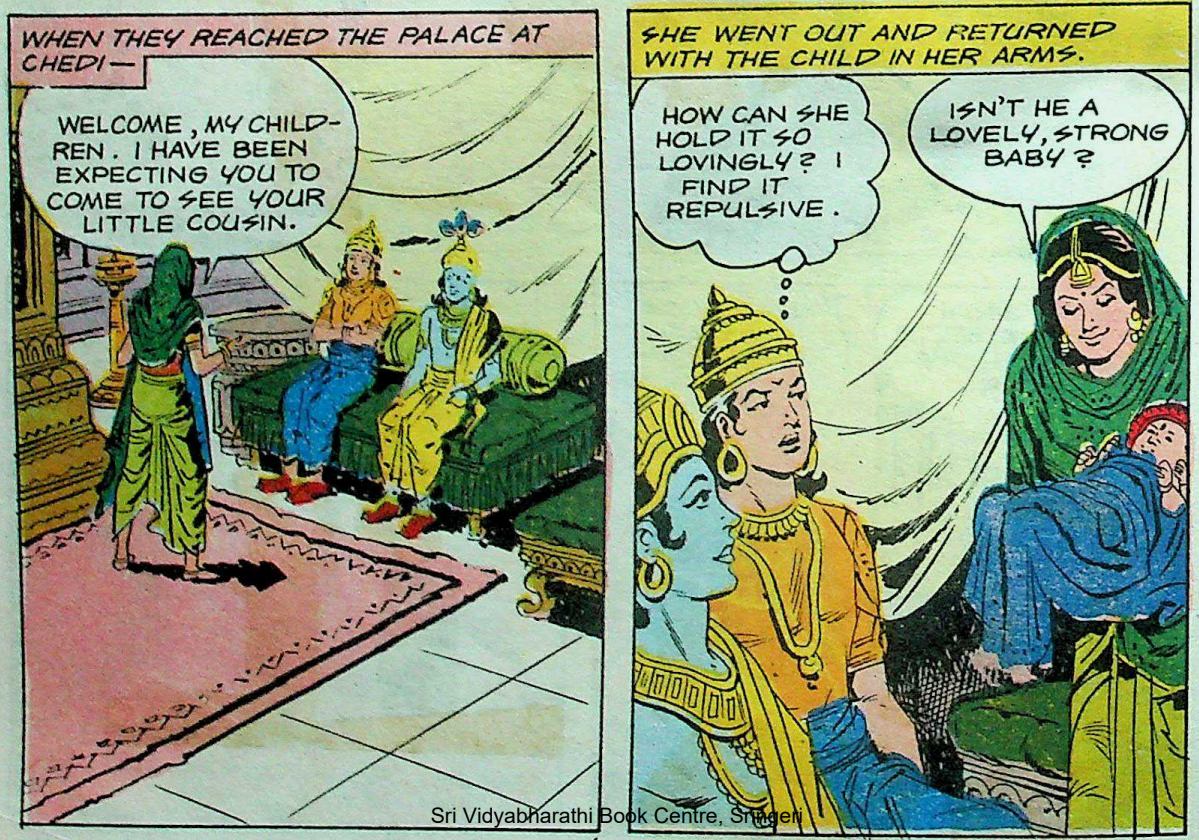

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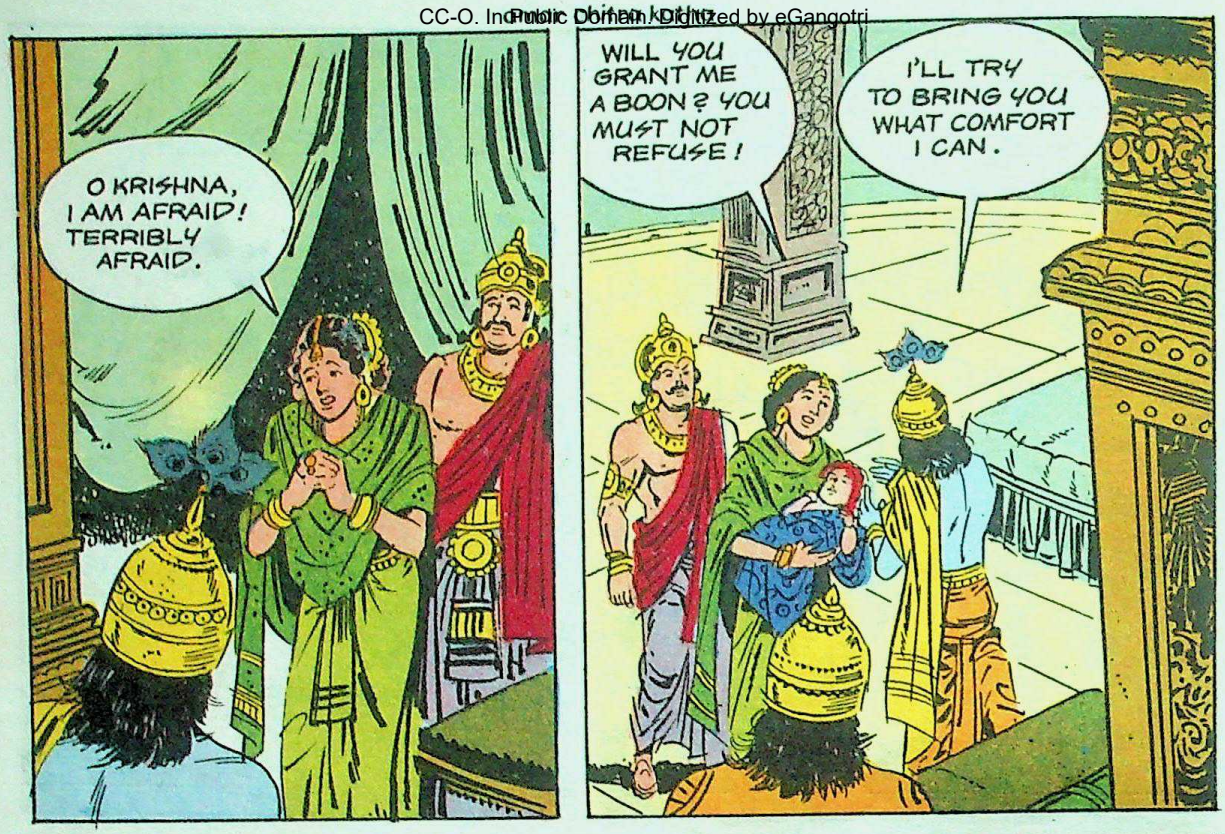

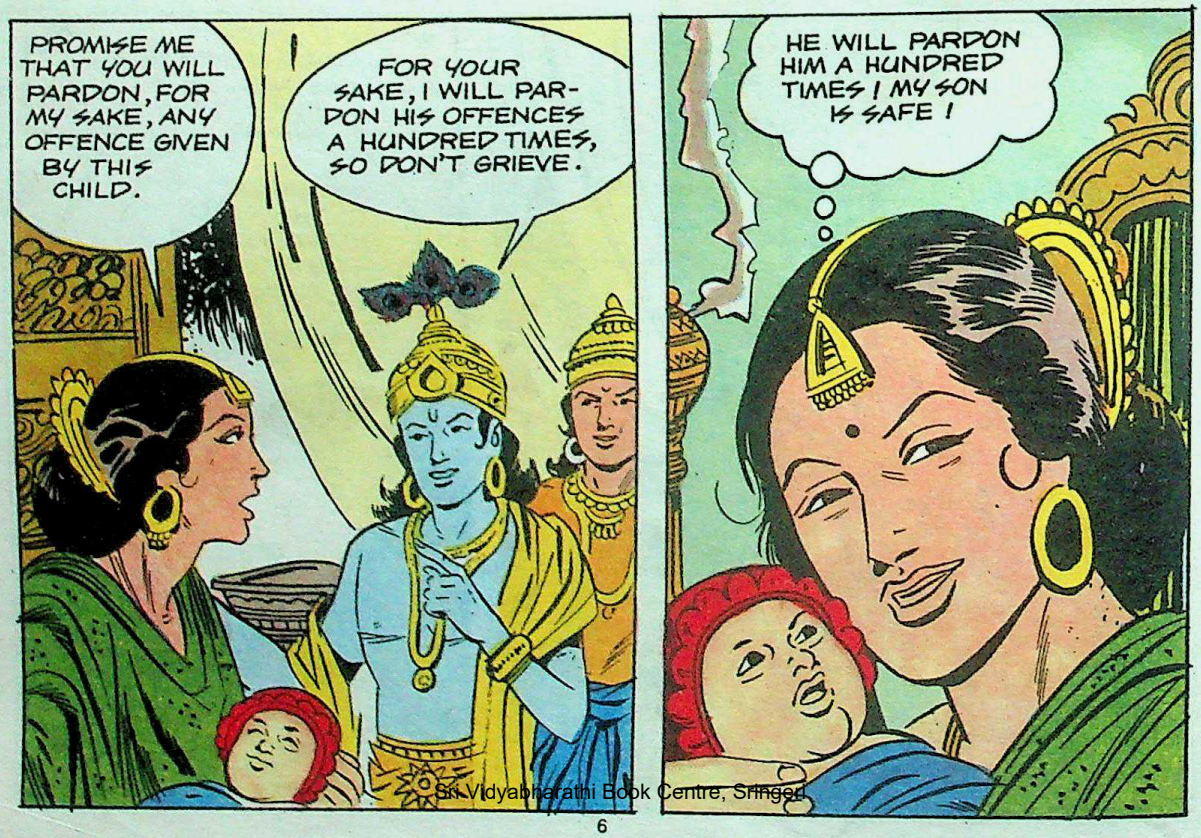

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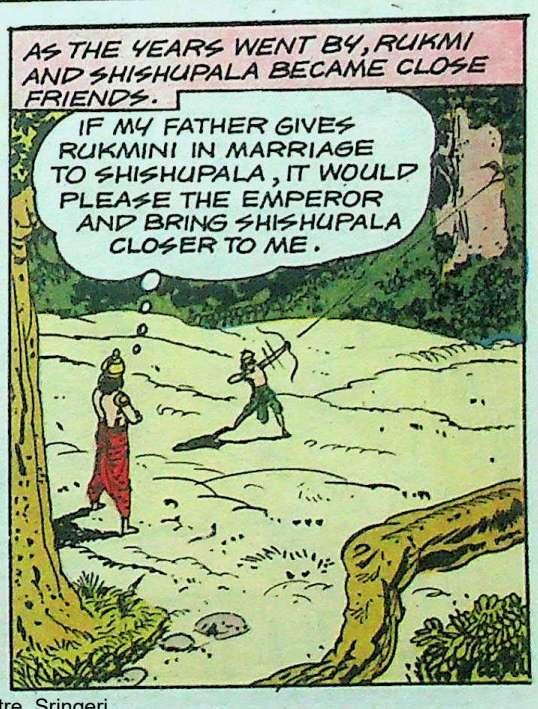

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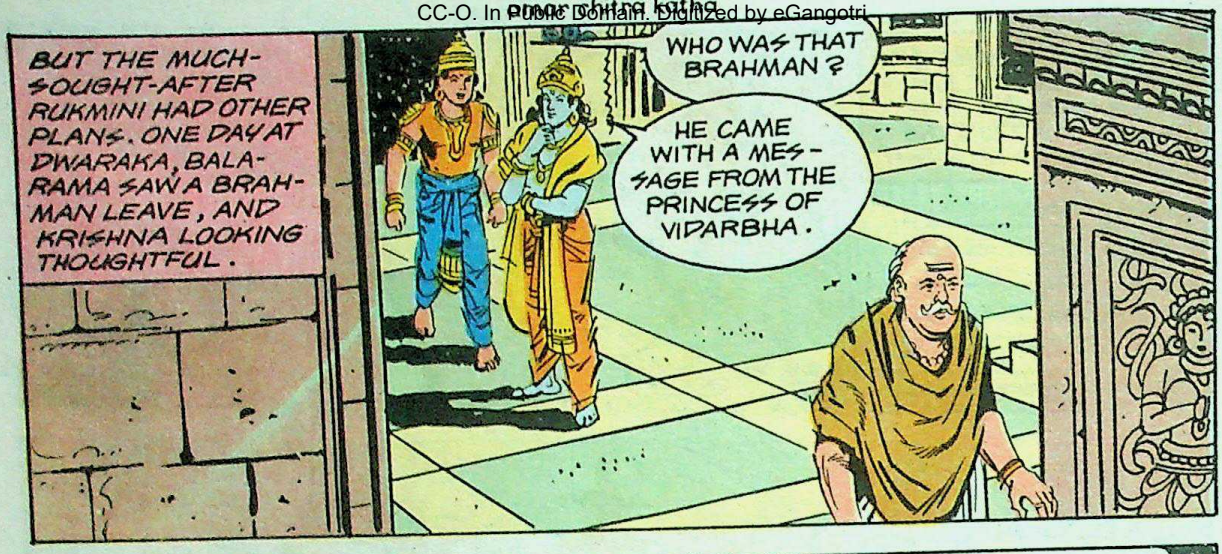

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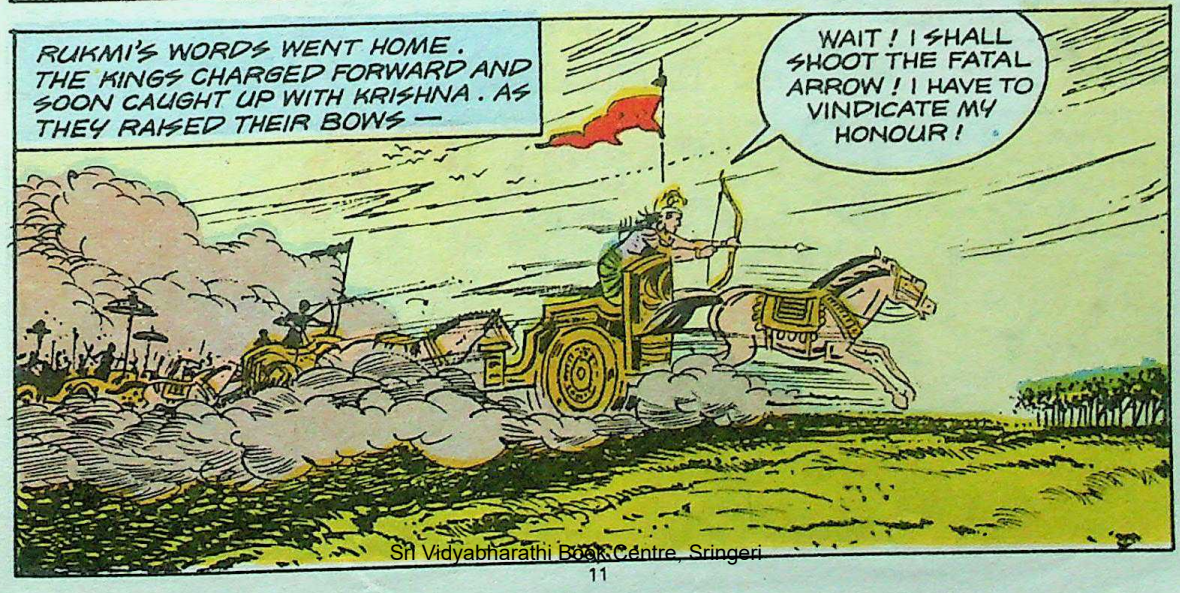

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BUT SHISHUPALA'S ARROW MISSED ITS MARK. HE RAISED HIS BOW AGAIN.
THIS TIME I WILL NOT MISS!
THE NEXT MOMENT—
WON'T YOU?
IT WAS BALARAMA WHO SPOKE AS HIS ARROW CUT SHISHUPALA'S INTO TWO.
AS KRISHNA SPED AWAY WITH RUKMI IN HOT PURSUIT, BALARAMA AND HIS ARMY HELD THE OTHERS AT BAY.
A FIERCE BATTLE ENSUED. THE EMPEROR AND HIS ALLIES WERE ROUTED.

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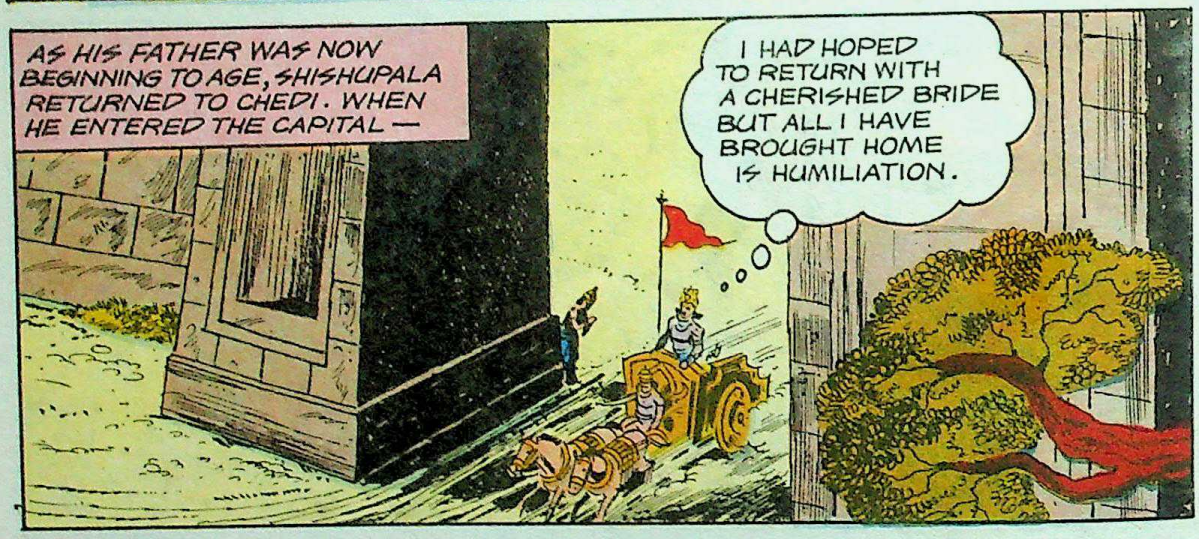

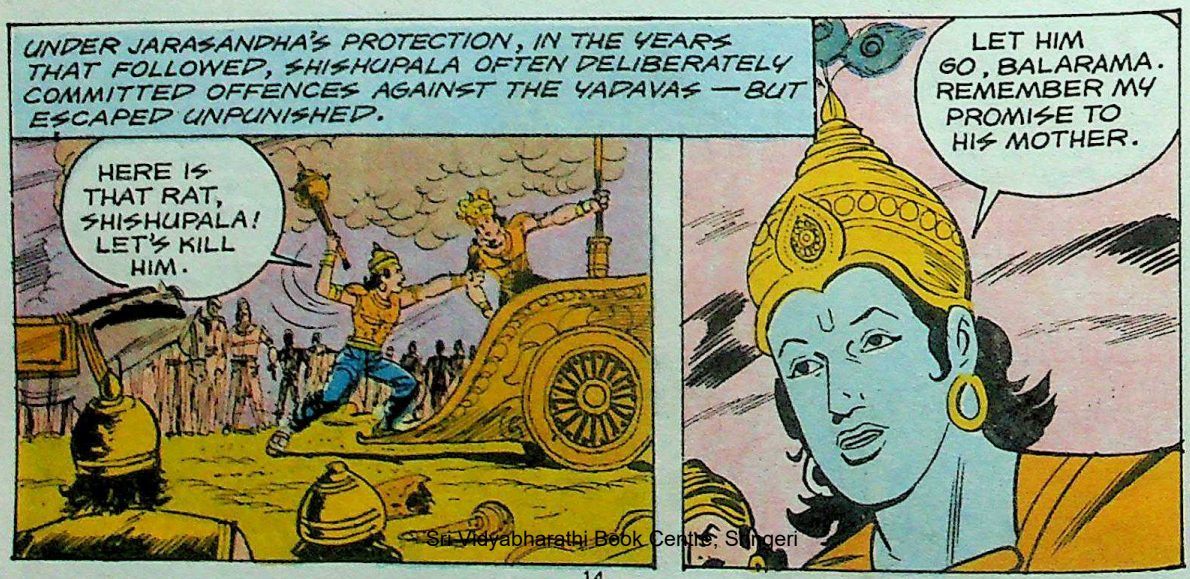

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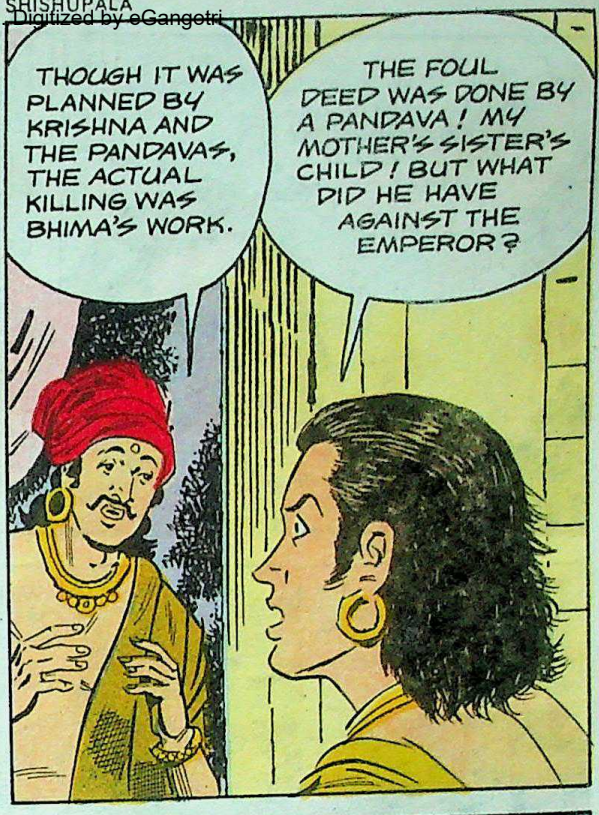

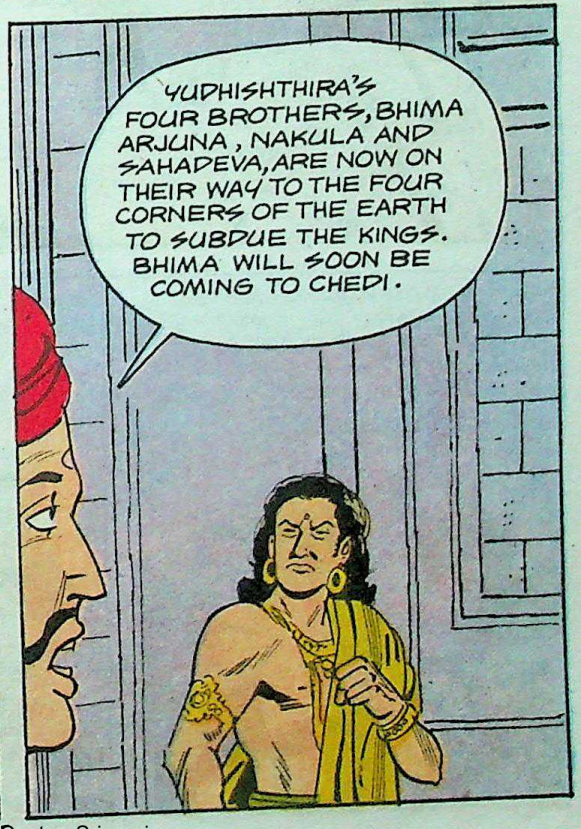

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AT LAST THE GREAT DAY ARRIVED. THE SACRED RITUALS BEGAN. AS SHISHUPALA TOOK THE SEAT ASSIGNED TO HIM —

SHALVA AND DANTAVAKTRA ARE NOT HERE! DOES THE DEATH OF JARASANDHA STILL RANKLE IN THEM?

THE OFFICIATING PRIESTS GUIDED YUDHISHTHIRA THROUGH THE CEREMONIES TO THE FINAL DAY WHEN THE SOMA JUICE WAS EXTRACTED.

YOU MUST NOW DECIDE WHOM YOU WILL HONOUR FIRST IN THIS ASSEMBLY OF SAGES AND KINGS.

YUDHISHTHIRA WAS AT A LOSS. HE HAD THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING BUT THIS.

THERE ARE MANY PRESENT WHO ARE WORTHY OF THE PRIME HONOUR. WHAT SHALL I DO? WHOM SHALL I CHOOSE?

WHY DOES HE HESITATE? IS THERE ANY DOUBT TO WHOM THE HONOUR SHOULD GO?

WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA DID NOT SPEAK, SAHADEVA, THE YOUNGEST PANDAVA, STOOD UP.

I PROPOSE KRISHNA, THE PEERLESS! BY HONOURING HIM WE WILL HONOUR OURSELVES AND ALL CREATION.

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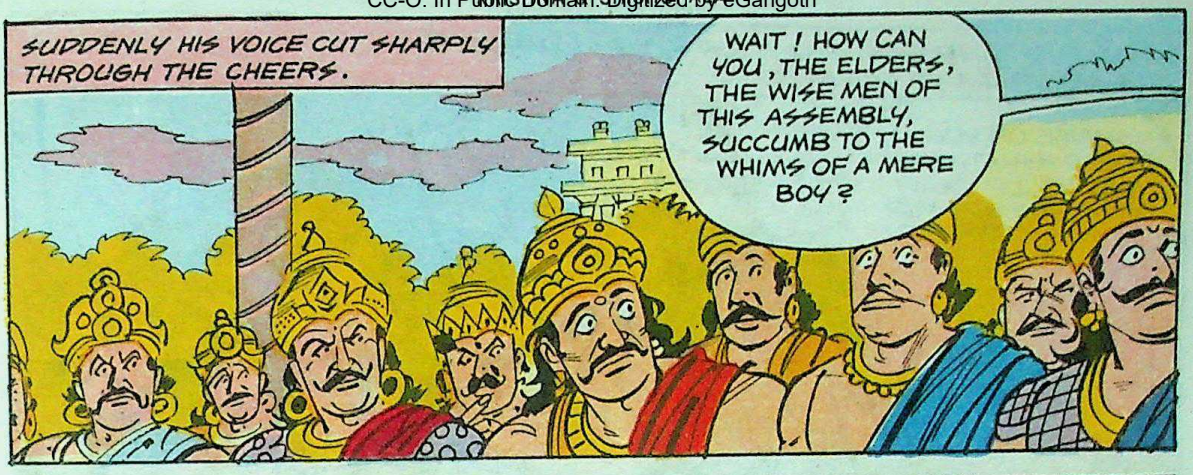

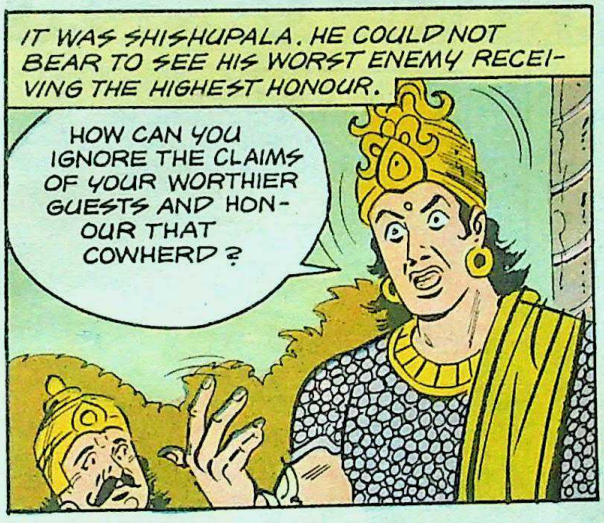

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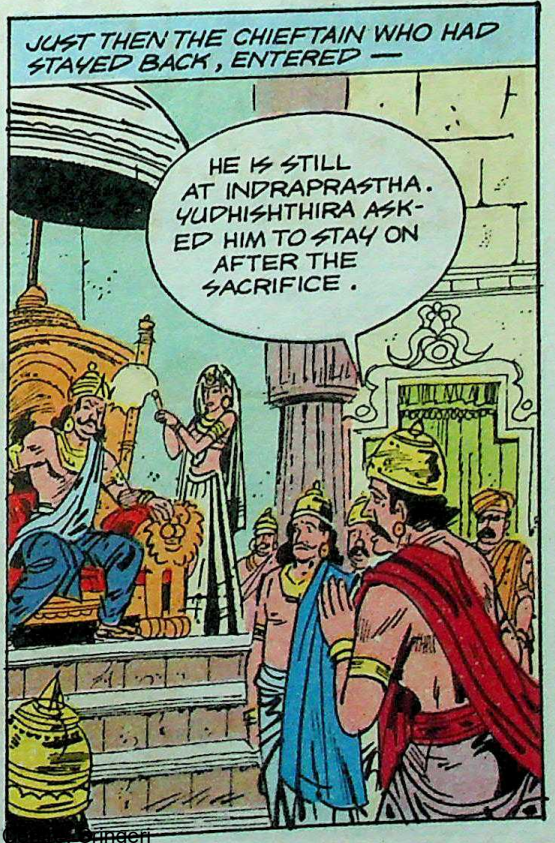

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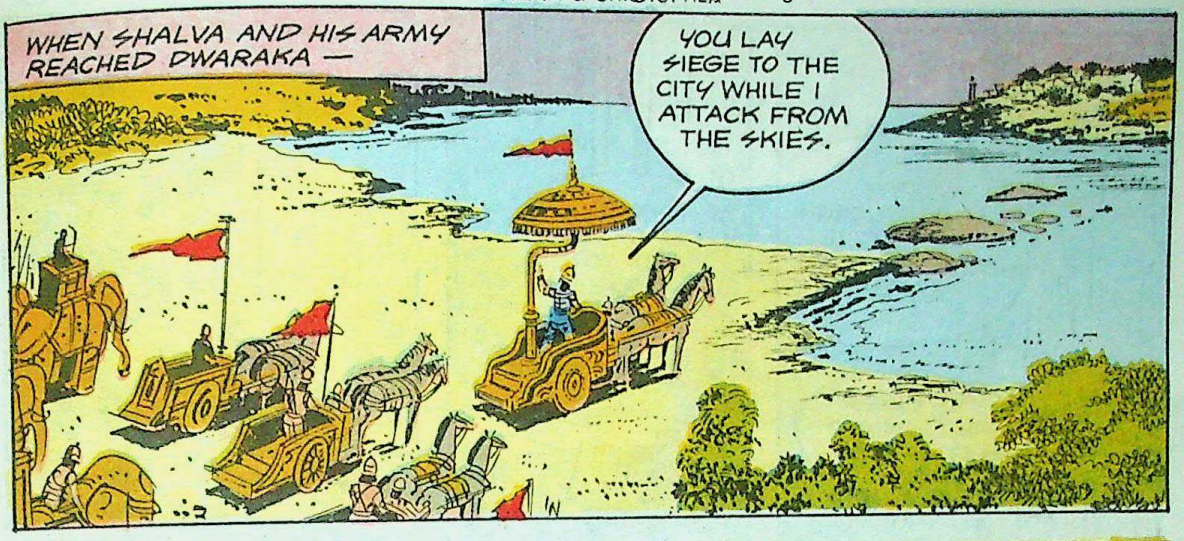

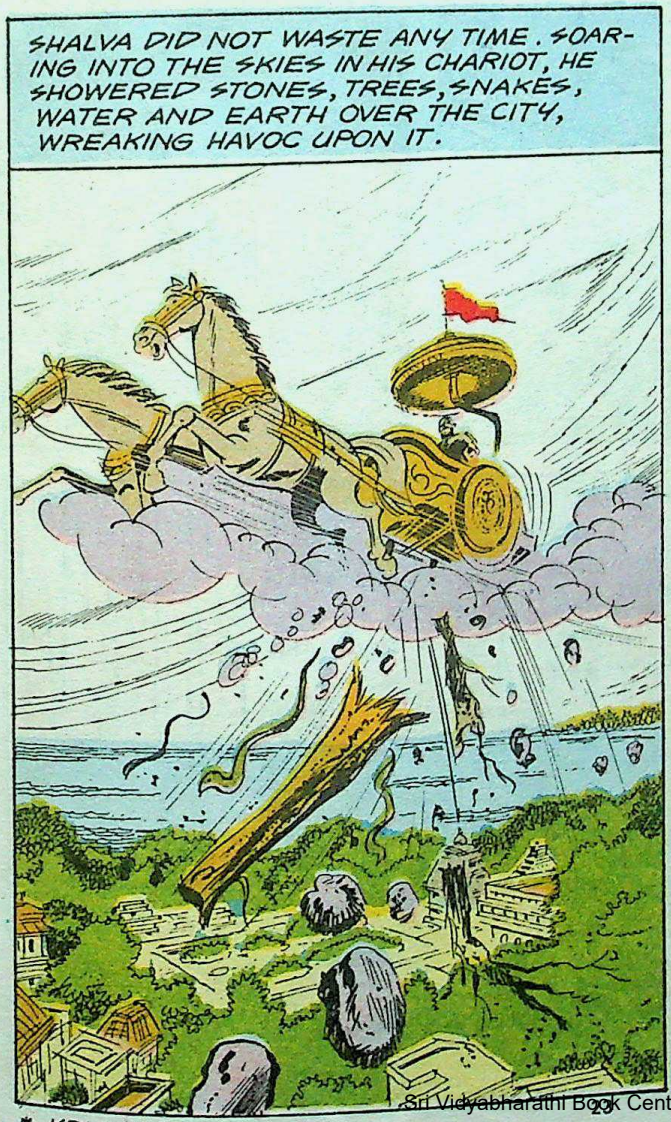

* KRISHNA'S SON

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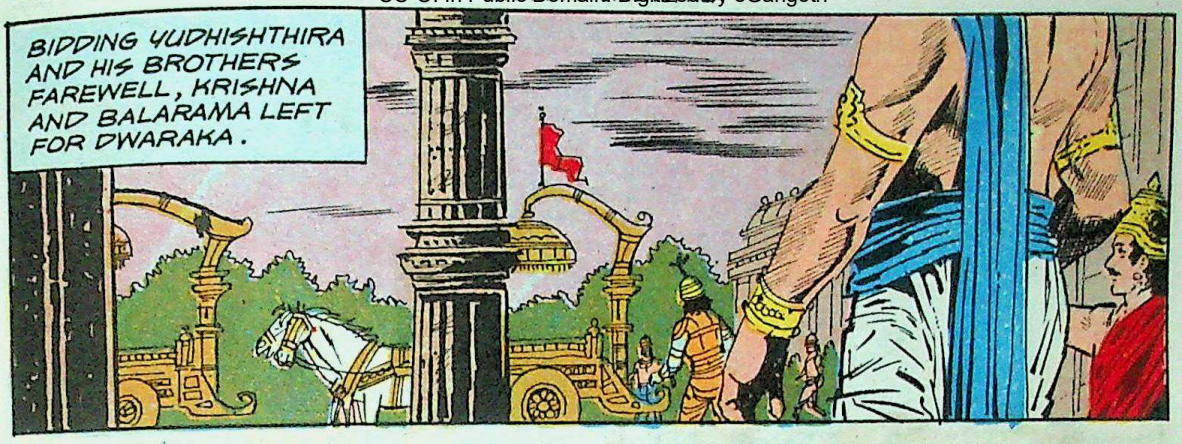

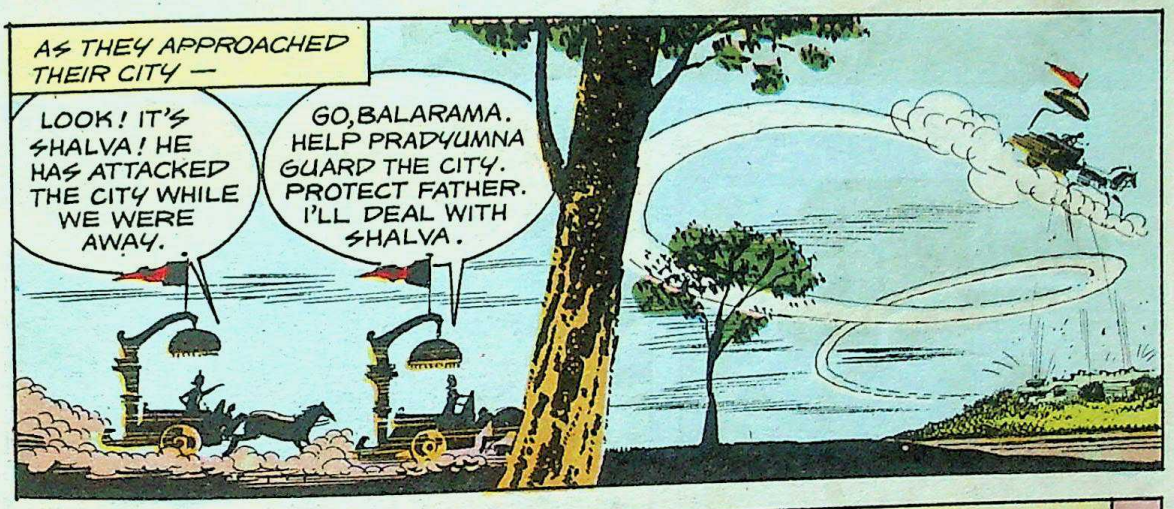

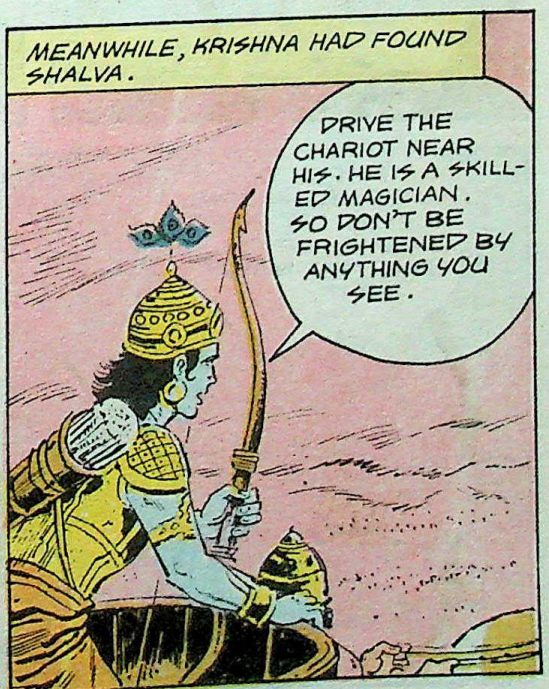

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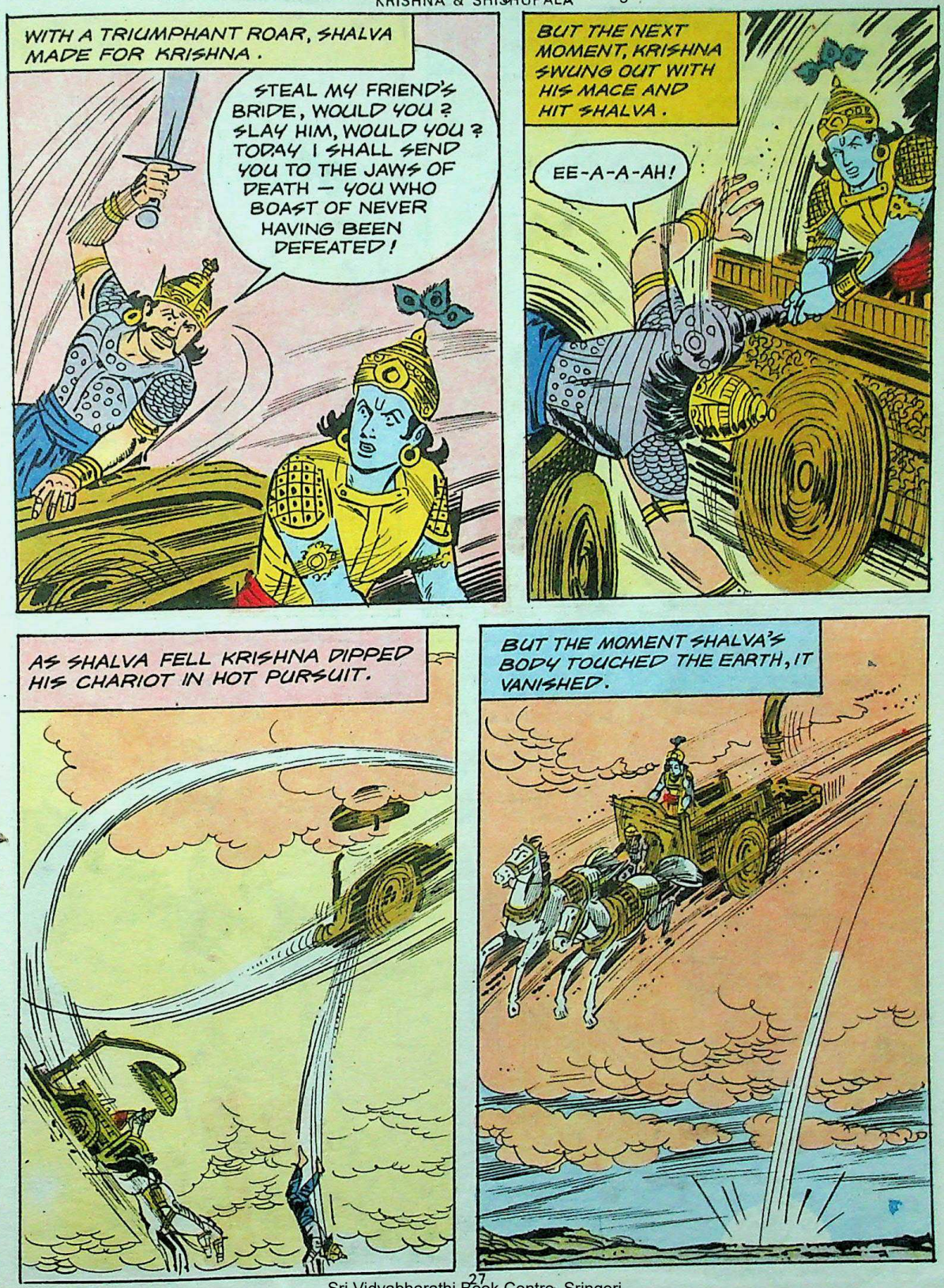

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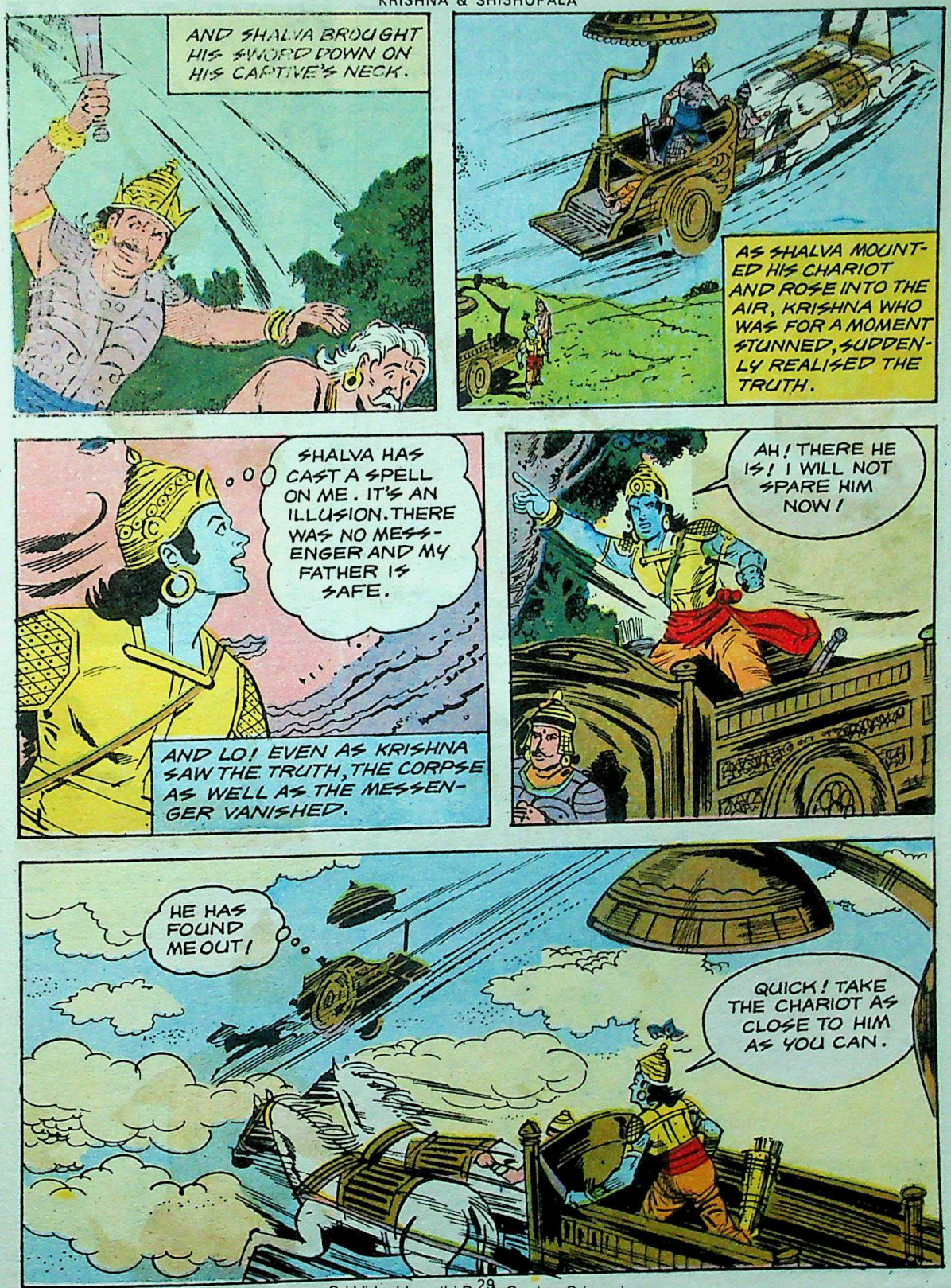

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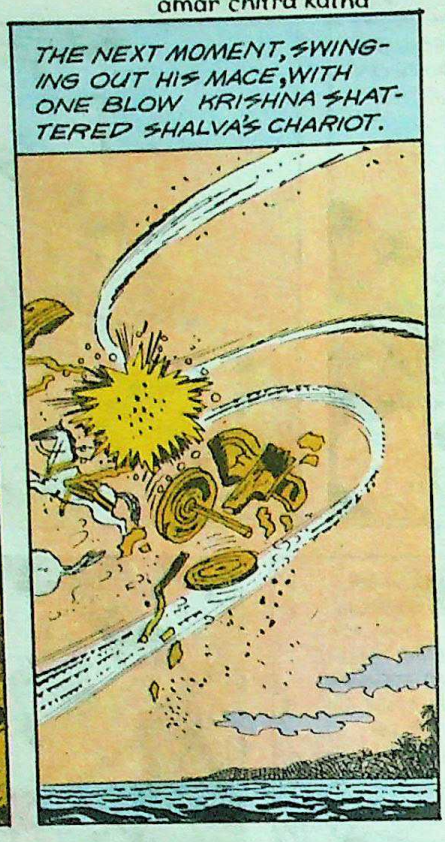

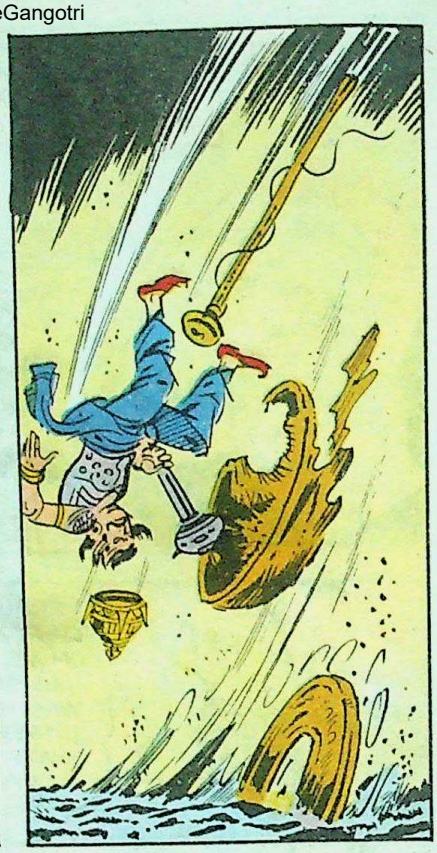

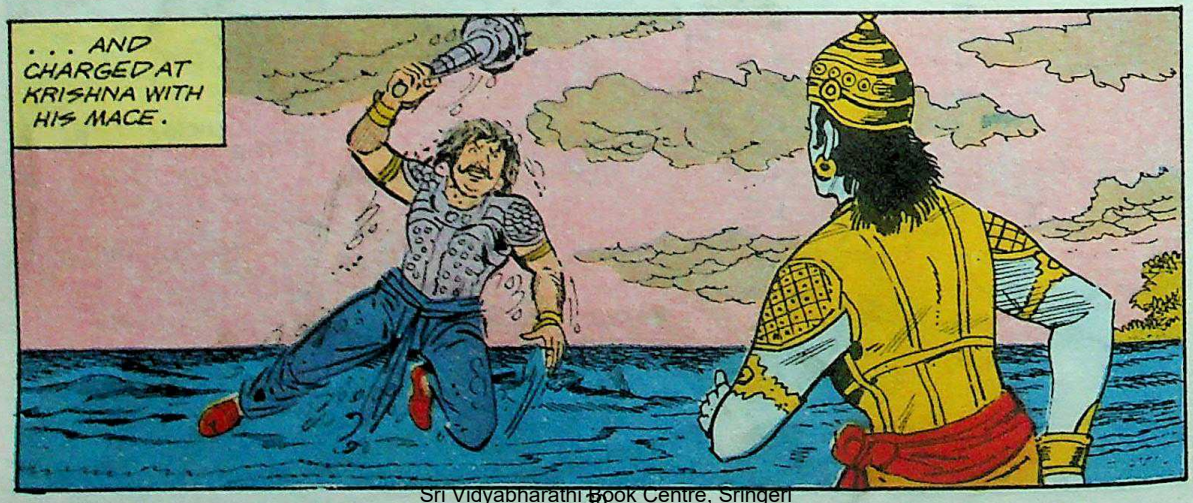

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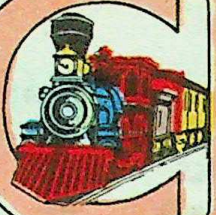

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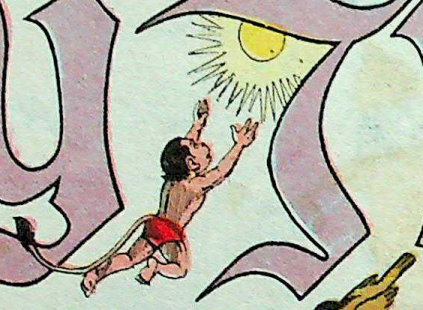

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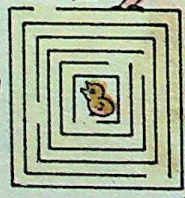

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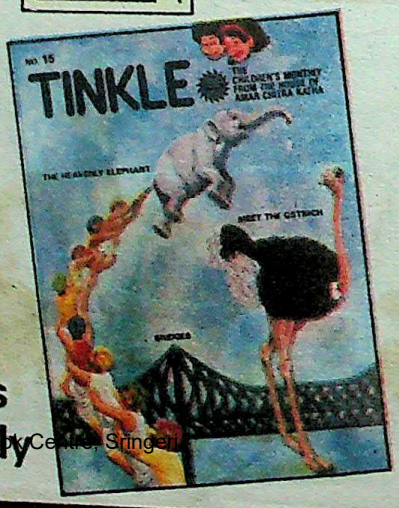

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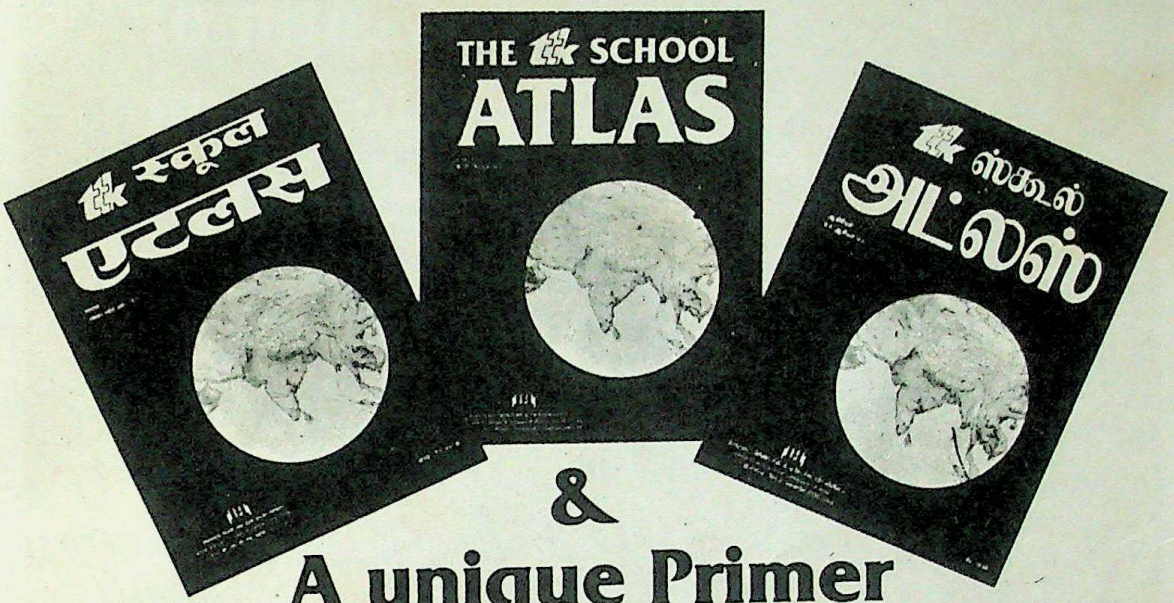

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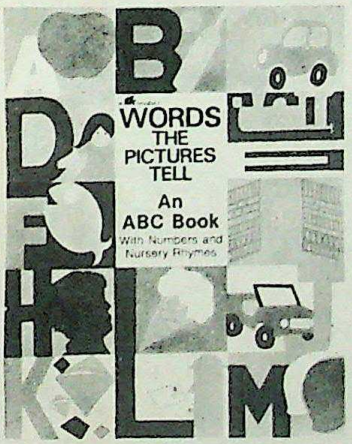

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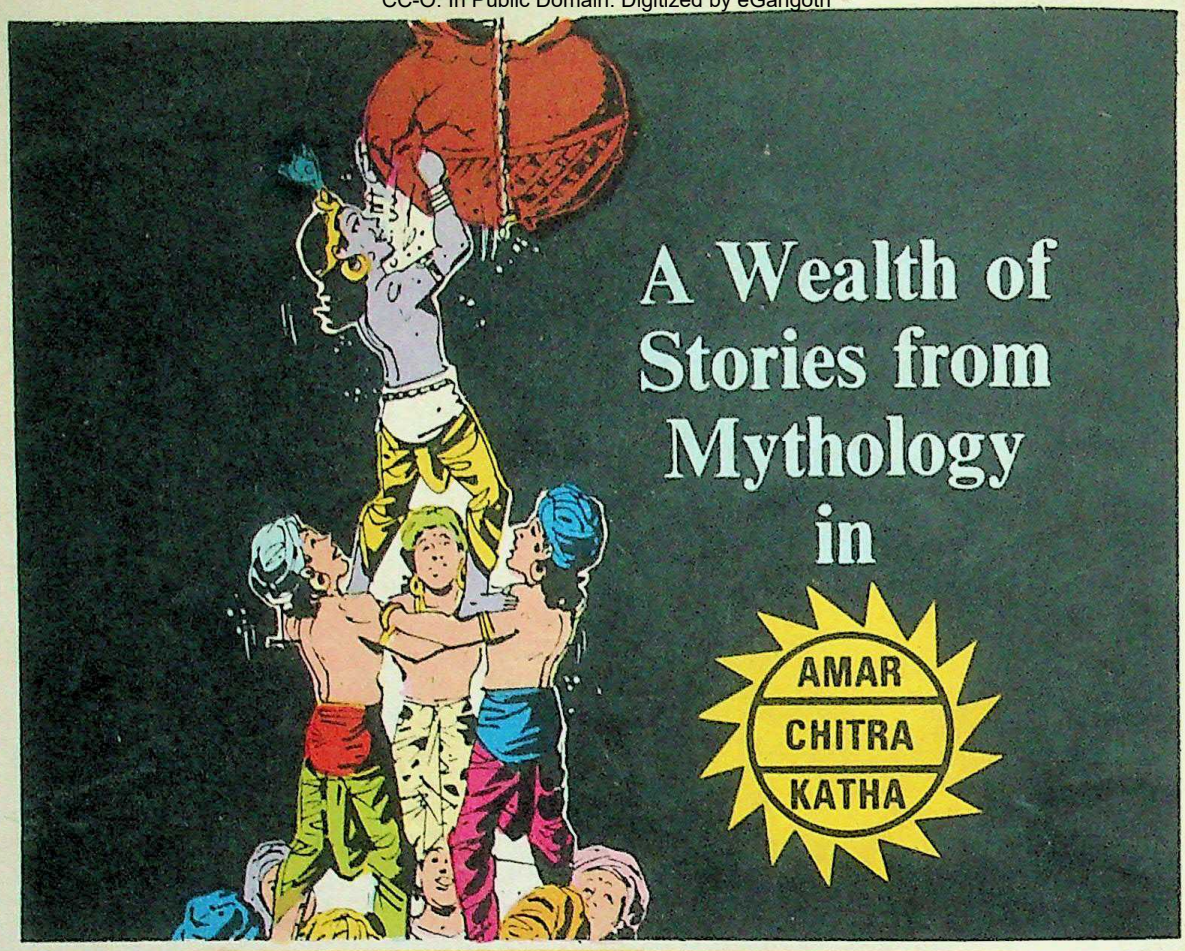

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